

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

HIGH AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY COAL STOCKS RISING AGAIN

Luxembourg, May 20: Pithead coal stocks in the European Coal and Steel Community in April continued the **rising** trend which has been in evidence since the end of February. Provisional figures published by the High Authority show stocks at the end of April at 31,920,000 metric tons, against 31,315,000 a month earlier and 30,368,000 at the end of February. At the end of April 1959, pithead coal stocks stood at 30,210,000 tons.

The bulk of the March-April increase occurred in France, where end-April stocks, at 12,276,000 tons, were easily the largest in the Community. In Germany and Belgium stocks have been relatively stable since the beginning of the year.

Stocks of coke at coking plant, in contrast to pithead coal stocks, have continued to fall, and by the end of April were down to 7,424,000 metric tons, from 7,775,000 at the end of March and 8,569,000 at the beginning of the year. At the end of April 1959 they stood at 7,700,000 tons.

Short-time working was substantial in March and April, being equivalent to a reduction in coal output of 1,020,000 and 872,000 tons respectively, against 496,000 in January and 482,000 in February. The average number of days lost through short-time working during April ranged from 0.12 in the Ruhr to 4.09 in the South Belgian coal field. For the first four months of the year days lost ranged from 0.26 in the Ruhr through 3.00 in the Nord Pas-de-Calais field, 5.00 in Lorraine, and 12.73 in the Campine, Belgium, to 14.22 in the South Belgian coal field.

Stocks of coal held by major consumers have been declining, and at the end of February - the latest date for which statistics are available - stood at 15,990,000 metric tons, against 16,867,000 at the end of 1959 and 19,080,000 at the end of February last year.

TOTAL COAL STOCKS AT PITHEADS (*)

at end of period

(provisional figures in '000 tons)

	Germany (Fed.Rep.)	Belgium	France	Italy	Nether- lands	Community
April 1960	11,283	7,448	12,276	142	771	31,920
March 1960	11,138	7,440	11,902	115	720	31,315
April 1959	12,110	7,541	9,556	69	933	30,210

(*) Excluding coal stocks at coke ovens and at mine-owned briquetting works.

TOTAL COAL STOCKS AT PITHEADS

at end of period

(provisional figures in '000 tons)

	Germany (Fed.Rep.)	Belgium	France	Italy	Nether- lands	Community
April 1960	6,101	259	572	230 *)	262	7,424
March 1960	6,528	232	536	223	256	7,775
April 1959	5,970	297	707	361	366	7,700

*) Estimate